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General Assembly

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Official Records

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Tuesday, 10 October 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Holkeri ..... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency The Honourable Roosevelt Douglas, late Prime Minister of Dominica

The President: It is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister of Dominica, His Excellency The Honourable Roosevelt Douglas, who passed away on 1 October 2000.

He was a prominent political leader in Dominica and had been its Prime Minister since February of this year. It was only last month that the General Assembly heard his statements at the Millennium Summit and in the general debate.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Dominica to convey our condolences to the Government and people of Dominica and to the bereaved family of His Excellency The Honourable Roosevelt Douglas.

I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency The Honourable Roosevelt Douglas.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Dominica.

Mr. Richards (Dominica): Mr. President, I wish to thank you and the members of your staff for arranging this tribute to The Honourable Roosevelt Douglas, the late Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica. On behalf of the Douglas family and the Government and people of Dominica, I would also like to use this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to those from whom we have received words of comfort and expressions of sympathy at this moment of sadness for all Dominicans.

Honourable Roosevelt Douglas was born in Portsmouth, Dominica, on 15 October 1941. The second son of a relatively prosperous family, "Rosie", as he was popularly known throughout the Caribbean, demonstrated at an early age a willingness to assist the less fortunate, and that caring and generous spirit shaped his character and outlook.

After completing his secondary education, Honourable Roosevelt Douglas left Dominica in 1961 to pursue studies in agriculture at the University of Guelph in Canada. Upon graduation from Guelph, the young Roosevelt Douglas changed course and courses, proceeding to study political science at McGill University. That he should choose politics over agriculture is not surprising; both his father and his older brother, Michael, had been successful politicians and Members of Parliament before him. But his political journey began in inauspicious circumstances, and he was destined to go down a political path not travelled by either his father or brother.

The late Honourable Roosevelt Douglas was pursuing doctoral studies in political science when the turbulent events of the 1960s and his life experiences

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in Canada impelled him to take an uncompromising stand against racism and the discrimination and indignity associated with it. As a consequence, his studies came to an end. On his return to Dominica in 1976, he immediately immersed himself in local politics and joined forces with those campaigning for independence from Britain.

The late Roosevelt Douglas was elected to the Dominica Parliament for the first time in 1985. From 1982 until his death, he was the leader of the Labour Party of Dominica, and from 1996 to 1999 he served as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. On 4 February 2000 Honourable Roosevelt Douglas was sworn in as the fifth Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Throughout his adult life Roosevelt Douglas had a singular passionate commitment to the struggle for the liberation of black people everywhere and for the economic and political empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged. Driven by that commitment and his concern for social and economic justice, he became involved in the 1980s and 1990s in international solidarity work in various parts of the world. In southern Africa, in particular, he played an important role in support of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC) in the struggle against apartheid. During that period he also established significant relationships with other Labour Parties and Governments in Europe. In the course of his brief stewardship as Prime Minister of Dominica, he promoted those relationships as building blocks of a new cooperative effort to develop relationships with Europe.

Never a politician in the conventional mould, the late Prime Minister energized the political debate in his own country and in the Caribbean by frequently expressing views and advocating positions considered politically unwise by some. In his quest for dignity, respect and better economic conditions for the less privileged, the Prime Minister would not allow himself to be distracted by criticism at home or abroad.

Not everyone shared his vision of a humane and just society and the mechanisms for achieving that goal. But, if the late Prime Minister were to speak to this Assembly today, I think he would feel very comfortable with the following quotation from George Bernard Shaw:

> "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

The legacy of Roosevelt Bernard Douglas is that he dared to ask "why not", and in so doing touched in a fundamental way the lives of many people in Dominica, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

Honourable Roosevelt Douglas passed on suddenly and untimely on Sunday, 1 October 2000 at his residence in Portsmouth, Dominica. The Commonwealth of Dominica has lost one of its illustrious sons, a consistent fighter for freedom and social and economic justice, a man whose vision, engaging personality, sense of humour and ability to communicate with people at all levels made him one of the Caribbean's leading political figures.

While the people of the Commonwealth of Dominica mourn his loss, we are thankful for the 58 years he spent among us.

Programme of work

The President: I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/INF/55/3/Add.1, which covers the period 10 October through 30 November, and which has already been circulated to Member States.

Other than the items already cited in the previous programme of work, the lists of speakers for additional items mentioned in document A/INF/55/3/Add.1 are open.

The General Assembly will, in due course, be kept informed of the dates for the consideration of other agenda items, as well as of any additions or changes.

Organization of work

The President: I should now like to make an announcement concerning agenda item 20, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

I have requested Mr. Hubert Wurth, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, to be coordinator of the informal consultations on the draft resolutions under agenda item 20 and he has graciously accepted.

May I request those delegations intending to submit draft resolutions under agenda item 20 to do so as early as possible in order to allow time, if need be, for negotiations with a view to reaching consensus on the draft resolutions.

In this connection, I should like to inform members that the first meeting of the informal consultations will be held on Wednesday, 25 October at 3 p.m. in conference room 8.

Agenda item 122 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/55/345/Add.6, Add.7 and Add.8)

The President: In the letters contained in documents A/55/345/Add.6, A/55/345/Add.7 and A/55/345/Add.8, the Secretary-General informs the President that, since the issuance of his communications contained in document A/55/345 and addenda 1 to 5, Dominica, Chad and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, respectively, have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in documents A/55/345/Add.6, A/55/345/Add.7 and A/55/345/Add.8?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2000.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: Argentina, Canada, Malaysia, Namibia and the Netherlands. Those five States cannot be re-elected and therefore their names should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in 2001 the following States: Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, Tunisia and Ukraine. The names of those States, therefore, should also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members which will remain in office in 2001, three are from Africa and Asia, one is from Eastern Europe and one is from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from Africa and Asia, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and two from among the Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from Africa and Asia, one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting will be declared elected.

In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures for the two vacant seats from among the African and Asian States, the Chairman of the Group of Asian States has informed the Secretariat that the Group has endorsed Singapore.

The Chairman of the Group of African States has informed the Secretariat that the Group has endorsed the Sudan. However, in this connection, the following communications have been circulated as official documents of the General Assembly: documents A/55/457 and A/55/463. In addition, in document A/55/464, the Permanent Representative of Mauritius presents the candidature of Mauritius as well.

Regarding the candidature for the vacant seat from among the Latin America and the Caribbean States, the Chairman of the Group has informed the Secretariat that the Group has endorsed Colombia.

Regarding candidatures for the two vacant seats from among the Western European and Other States, the Chairman of the Group has informed the Secretariat that there are three candidates: Ireland, Italy and Norway.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to write on them the names of the five States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Members States on a ballot paper that do not belong to that region will not be counted.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pokaz (Croatia), Mr. Kitagawa (Japan) and Mr. Parrales Sánchez (Nicaragua) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*1*
Number of members voting:	*172*
Required two-thirds majority:	*115*
Number of votes obtained:	
Singapore	*168*
Mauritius	*95*
Sudan	*69*

Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*5*
Number of members voting:	*168*
Required two-thirds majority:	*112*
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	*168*

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*0*
Number of members voting:	*173*
Required two-thirds majority:	*116*
Number of votes obtained:	
Ireland	*130*
Norway	*114*
Italy	*94*

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2001: Colombia, Ireland and Singapore.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council.

There remain two seats to be filled, one from among the African and Asian States, and one from among the Western European and other States. In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that of the two seats allocated to the African and Asian States, one should be filled from Africa and one from Asia. As Singapore has already been elected, the remaining seat from among the African and Asian States should be filled by an African State.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

The second round of balloting shall be restricted to the Two States from among the African States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Mauritius and the

Sudan, and to those two States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Italy and Norway. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A" and "C" will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote, and to write on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "A" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Mauritius or the Sudan, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "C" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or Norway, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pokaz (Croatia), Mr. Kitagawa (Japan) and Mr. Parrales Sánchez (Nicaragua) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers	*173*
Number of invalid ballots	*0*
Number of valid ballots	*173*
Abstentions	*6*
Number of members voting	*167*
Required two-thirds majority	*112*
Number of votes obtained	
Mauritius	*102*
Sudan	*65*

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers	*173*
Number of invalid ballots	*1*
Number of valid ballots	*172*
Abstentions	*2*
Number of members voting	*170*
Required two-thirds majority	*114*
Number of votes obtained	
Norway	*100*
Italy	*70*

The President: Since no candidates obtained the required two-thirds majority, there remain two seats to be filled: one from among the African and Asian States and one from among the Western European and other States.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that of the two seats allocated to the African and Asian States one should be filled from Africa and one from Asia. As Singapore has already been elected, the remaining seat from among the African and Asian States should be filled by one African State.

We shall therefore proceed to the second restricted ballot.

The third round of balloting shall be restricted to those two States from among the African States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Mauritius and the Sudan; and those two States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Italy and Norway. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A" and "C" will now be distributed.

I request representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote, and to write on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "A" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Mauritius or the Sudan, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "C" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or Norway, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pokaz (Croatia), Mr. Kitagawa (Japan) and Mr. Parrales Sánchez (Nicaragua) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.40 p.m. and resumed at 1.20 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*1*
Number of valid ballots:	*172*
Abstentions:	*4*
Number of members voting:	*168*
Required two-thirds majority:	*112*
Number of votes obtained:	
Mauritius	*110*
Sudan	*58*

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*1*
Number of members voting:	*172*
Required two-thirds majority:	*115*
Number of votes obtained:	
Norway	*110*
Italy	*62*

The President: Since again no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority, there remain two seats to be filled, one from among the African and Asian States, and one from among the Western European and other States.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that of the two seats allocated to the African and Asian States one should be filled from Africa and one from Asia. As Singapore has already been elected, the remaining seat from among the African and Asian States should be filled by one African State.

We shall therefore proceed to the third restricted ballot.

The fourth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the African States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Mauritius and the Sudan, and to the two States from among the Western European and other States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Italy and Norway. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

I request that representatives remain in their seats during the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A" and "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote, and to write on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "A" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Mauritius or the Sudan, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "C" will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Italy or Norway, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pokaz (Croatia), Mr. Kitagawa (Japan) and Mr. Parrales Sánchez (Nicaragua) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 1.35 p.m. and resumed at 1.55 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*5*
Number of members voting:	*168*
Required two-thirds majority:	*112*
Number of votes obtained:	
Mauritius	*113*
Sudan	*55*

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	*173*
Number of invalid ballots:	*0*
Number of valid ballots:	*173*
Abstentions:	*1*

Number of members voting 172
Required two-thirds majority 115
Number of votes obtained
Norway 115
Italy 57

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Mauritius and Norway were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2001.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

The following five States have thus been elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2001: Colombia, Ireland, Mauritius, Norway and Singapore.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 15.

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.